

VETAC

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**Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee
Annual Report – 2005-2006
Submitted by Dr. James Carroll, VETAC Chair**

Mission of VETAC:

The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee continued to fulfill its mission during the 2005-2006 school year advising the State Board of Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction on educational technology matters. VETAC's role includes, but is not limited to, providing information and recommendations to local school divisions and the Department of Education on technology policy and funding related issues.

Membership:

VETAC's membership consists of a broad constituency of technology stakeholders from the public and private sectors. VETAC members include teachers, principals, superintendents, curriculum specialists, educational technology program directors and coordinators, higher education administrators, educational professional organizations, school board members and members of the business community. Each member serves as an advocate for educational technology and acts as a conduit for communicating educational technology related issues between VETAC and the member's host organization or affiliate.

Issues Addressed During 2005-2006:

VETAC members spent the majority of the 2005-2006 school year focusing on current and emerging technologies and related initiatives that hold promise for enhancing the teaching and learning process and supporting essential educational services for students. VETAC members held open discussions and small work group sessions with VDOE technology division staff that covered several educational technology related issues and key initiatives. All three full committee meetings were held at high school and middle school sites where VETAC members had an opportunity to observe innovative technology applications.

VETAC Work Sessions:

Administrator Technology Standards

At its 2005-2006 September meeting, the VETAC Executive Committee recommended that the technology administrator competencies drafted during the 2004-2005 school year be turned into standards that could be combined with a revised set of Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel (TSIP) to make a single standards document. It was further recommended that the NETS-T standards be used as a resource to revise the TSIP, and that a document containing the standards, prevailing practices, inquiry statements,

and exemplar statements be prepared by the Office of Educational Technology for review by the full VETAC committee during its October meeting.

In October, the full VETAC committee worked in small groups to review the revised TSIP standards document for alignment with the new Computer/Technology Standards, for students. The full committee also identified potential strategies for meeting objectives found in the new standards, and drafted a Q and A document for future distribution to school divisions.

A recommendation from VETAC that a specified number of recertification points be required for administrators for technology professional development was not approved by the Director of Teacher Licensure as it was felt that such a requirement would not allow for maximum flexibility for those seeking recertification, and could possibly prevent administrators from addressing other areas of weakness needed to meet recertification requirements.

NCLB Title II, Part D Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program

Similar to last year, funding for the EETT Program has been removed from President Bush's FY 2007 budget request. The EETT program currently provides funds to Virginia school divisions that are used to support ongoing, sustained, and intensive high-quality professional development designed to assist teachers in integrating advanced instructional technologies into instruction to improve student achievement. To advocate for the reinstatement of these funds, the VETAC chairperson wrote several letters to key senators and congressmen requesting that they support continued funding of the EETT Program.

Local Tech Plan Status Reports for VDOE

During its May 2006 meeting, VETAC members participated in a small group work session to provide VDOE's Division of Technology administration and staff with input necessary to ensure that the data needs of the VDOE and school divisions for federal, state and local reporting purposes could be met through the consistent collection, analysis, and reporting of data on educational technology to improve student learning.

VETAC members worked in five small groups with each being assigned one of the five issue areas found in the state technology plan. Participants reviewed the Data Acquisition: LEA Implementation Record document that was distributed to school divisions in January. This document can be used by school divisions to record progress in implementing strategies that address targets found in the state plan. Participants were asked to develop a list of evidence that could be used to demonstrate that LEAs have met the identified targets of each technology issue area. They also were asked to identify evidence that is currently available for LEAs to report on.

The information collected from this work session will be used by the Division of Technology to determine if there is any common ground among school divisions regarding data that can be collected, and to identify questions that need to be asked by

VDOE to assist school divisions in gathering and reporting on future appropriate data related to the state technology plan.

VETAC Presentations:

Architectural Guidelines

VETAC members heard a report from Lan Neugent on the status of architectural guidelines at their October 2005 meeting. Lan reported that the Office of Educational Technology will begin to review the current architectural guidelines drafted for the SOL Technology Initiative. The guidelines detail the infrastructure essential for implementing the web-based online SOL testing program. VETAC members were invited to participate in the review which is coordinated by Richard Schley of the Office of Educational Technology.

EIMS Update:

During the February 2006 meeting, Bethann Canada, VDOE's Director of Educational Information Management provided VETAC members with an overview of the EIMS project. Bethann outlined the goals of the project, discussed the project's accomplishments for the past 18 months, and projected what EIMS might address in the future.

School Interoperability Framework (SIF)

During the February 2006 meeting, Bethann Canada also provided VETAC members with an update of the SIF project. She provided a definition of SIF, discussed how SIF can be used to make school data systems talk to one another, and discussed SIF's local return on investment.

Data Quality Campaign Update

At the same February 2006 meeting, Bethann Canada provided VETAC members with a status report on the Data Quality Campaign. She reviewed the components of this initiative and outlined the "Ten Essential Elements" the campaign is based upon. The ten essential elements include:

- A unique statewide student identifier;
- Student-level enrollment, demographic and program participation information;
- The ability to match individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth;
- Information on untested students;
- A teacher identified system with the ability to match teachers to students;
- Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned;
- Student-level college readiness test scores;
- Student-level graduation and dropout data;
- Ability to match student records between the pre-K-12 and postsecondary systems, and
- A state data audit system assessing data quality, validity and reliability.

Databases Provided to Schools by the Library of Virginia

Charlie Makela of the Office of Educational Technology briefed VETAC members on databases provided to schools by the Library of Virginia during the February 2006 meeting. Charlie informed VETAC members that by using Google it is now possible to access and search the Gale database. She mentioned that the advanced search and “access my library” feature should be used to access the Gale database. Charlie also mentioned that one can conduct a “power search” which enables users to select multiple databases through one search. Access to these databases is free for school divisions as funding is provided by the Library of Virginia. VETAC members were asked by Charlie to inform the associations they represent about these free Library of Virginia sponsored databases.

IP Telephones and Data Driven Security

John Littlefield, VETAC Vice-Chair, and Regional Study Group II Representative presented an overview of IP Telephones and Data Driven Security during the VETAC February 2006 meeting. John discussed the advantages of using IP telephones, and outlined what to expect when initially implementing an IP phone system.

In the area of data driven network security, John provided VETAC members with a definition. He defined data driven security as “using data and needs to select the appropriate securities for different network environments.” He concluded his comments by listing several security concerns, posing several questions to assist school administrators in selecting the correct security option, and describing the process needed to determine the level of security needed. Several excellent websites also were identified by John.

Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT) Panel

During the February 2006 meeting, VETAC members heard a presentation by four of the Instructional Technology Resource Teachers who described one of their typical days, responsibilities of their positions, and work plan goals they set for themselves.

Following the presentation, VETAC members moved into small groups to discuss ways VETAC can support this new group of professionals. Lan Neugent also spoke about the support VDOE is giving to ITRTs by providing future state funding for these positions.

House Bill 58 – Teach Web Safety

Lan Neugent reported to VETAC members during their May 2006 meeting that the General Assembly had just passed House Bill 58 – requiring public and private schools in Virginia to provide students with web-safety instruction and warn them about Internet predators. He mentioned that the new law requires the Virginia Department of Education to issue guidelines to schools for integrating Internet safety into their regular instruction. He also informed VETAC members that VDOE was in the process of drafting the necessary guidelines covering how to teach students about web safety. School divisions are expected to have a program in place by the start of the 2006-2007 school year in order to meet the requirements of the new law.

VETAC Leadership Award:

VETAC annually recognizes a committee member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, significant VETAC participation, and exemplary commitment to the mission and goals of VETAC. The 2005-2006 recipient was Zahrl Schoeny, Associate Professor at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education.

During his ten plus years serving as a member of VETAC, Zahrl served on the Technology Standards For Administrators Collaborative that developed and wrote national technology standards for administrators. In his work with the Virginia Department of Education, Zahrl developed on-line courses, the curriculum used by the Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership (VITAL) to train administrators throughout the state, and was instrumental in the implementation of the Virginia Educational Technology Alliance (VETA), beginning with the college grants for training teachers to use technology. Zahrl also assisted in drafting the Virginia state technology plan, Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel (TSIP) and Computer/Technology Standards of Learning (SOL) for students. As chair of a VETAC subcommittee, his latest work involved assisting with the development of administrative technology leadership competencies which will serve as the standard for the development of standards that will be used throughout the state.

Site Visits:

During the 2005-2006 school year, VETAC held all three of its full committee meetings at school sites. The October and February meetings were held at Hanover High School in Hanover County, while the May meeting was held at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington, County.

During the Kenmore Middle School visit, an Arts & Communications Technology Focus school, VETAC members heard presentations by Dr. John Word, Kenmore Principal, and Shauna Dyer, Exemplary Project and Focus Coordinator that covered an overview of the Kenmore Middle School curriculum.

Focus Areas for 2006-2007:

During the coming year, VETAC will continue to fulfill its mission through collaboration with the VDOE Division of Technology. Similar to the 2005-2006 school year, a portion of each 2006-07 full committee meeting will be devoted to current educational technology topics with VETAC members working in small groups. A number of presentations also are planned covering important educational technology topics that have been identified and approved by the VETAC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee at their June meeting approved the following topics for the 2006-2007 school year.

Presentation/Work Group Session Topics:**1. Data and EIMS – October 3, 2006**

- Culture of quality data
- Data quality curriculum
- Guidance document for data collection

Presenters: Bill Flaherty, John Littlefield, and Bethann Canada

2. What can higher education do for K-12 programs? February 13, 2007

- Training pre-service teachers to use technology
- Building a dialog between higher education and the school divisions
- Establishing training partnerships with teacher education faculty

Presenter: Zahrl Schoeny

3. Interactive Learning Objects – May 1, 2007

Presenter: Dr. Tammy McGraw

Presentation Topics:

1. Virtual Schools

- Online learning
- Virtual schools – locally and statewide
- Delivery systems
- Professional development for teachers

Presenter: Cathy Cheely

2. ITRT presentation on current status of their organization plans

3. N-STAR Program

Presenter: Dave Mirra will present this topic at the September Executive Committee meeting with possibility of a full committee presentation later in the school year.

4. Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying

Presenter: Dave Mirra

Informational Topics:

1. Fiber Networks

- Regional movements
- Seed projects

Informational update by Bill Flaherty and John Littlefield

2. Guidelines for network security and safety

Informational update by John Littlefield